



Labor and Workforce Development

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Unemployment Rate at 3.9 Percent

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BOSTON, MA – *The state's total unemployment rate increased to 3.9 percent in April* from the March rate of 3.6 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Thursday.

The preliminary job estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate Massachusetts added 3,900 jobs in April. Over the month job gains occurred in Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Education and Health Services; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Other Services; Information; and Manufacturing.

From April 2016 to April 2017, BLS estimates Massachusetts has added 58,600 jobs.

The April state unemployment rate remains lower than the national rate of 4.4 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Through the first four months of 2017, Massachusetts has added over twenty thousand jobs, with much of those gains coming from key sectors of the economy like Professional, Business and Scientific Services. These job gains, coupled with large increases to the labor force and a low unemployment rate, are signs of a strong economy in the Commonwealth. Our workforce agencies remain focused on closing the skills gap and ensuring that those newly entering the job market have the training necessary to access employment opportunities." Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Ronald L. Walker, II said.

The labor force increased by 33,000 from 3,661,200 in March, as 21,200 more residents were employed and 11,800 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of a percentage point from 4.0 percent in April 2016. There were 300 more unemployed persons over the year compared to April 2016.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – increased six-tenths of a percentage point to 66.5 percent over the month. The labor force participation rate over the year has increased 1.5 percent compared to April 2016.

The largest private sector percentage job gains over the year were in Professional, Scientific and Business Services; Construction; Financial Activities; Education and Health Services.

April 2017 Employment Overview

Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained (+1.1%) 6,100 jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services added 18,100 (+3.3%) jobs.

Education and Health Services added 1,100 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services gained 18,300 (+2.3%) jobs.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 1,000 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 4,200 (+0.7%) jobs.

Other Services added 600 (+0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are up 1,700 (+1.3%) jobs.

Information gained 300 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information added 1,100 (+1.2%) jobs.

Manufacturing added 200 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 2,000 (-0.8%) jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality lost 2,400 (-0.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality added 500 (+0.1%) jobs.

Construction lost 1,100 (-0.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has added 3,800 (+2.6%) jobs.

Financial Activities lost 800 (-0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities gained 5,300 (+2.4%) jobs.

Government lost 1,000 (-0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government gained 7,700 (+1.7%) jobs.


Labor Force Overview

The April estimates show 3,551,100 Massachusetts residents were employed and 143,100 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,694,200. The unemployment rate was 3.9 percent. The April labor force increased by 33,000 from 3,661,200 in March, as 21,200 more residents were employed and 11,800 more residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was 66.5 percent. The labor force was up 106,700 from the 3,587,500 April 2016 estimate, with 106,400 more residents employed and 300 more residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.

NOTES:

The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

Local area unemployment statistics for April 2017 will be released on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. The preliminary May 2017 and revised April 2017 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Thursday, June 15, 2017. See the [2017 Revised Media Advisory annual schedule](#)  for a complete list of release dates.

Detailed labor market information is available at www.mass.gov/lmi.

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